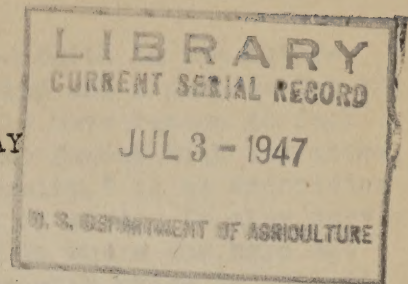


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

May 25, 1947

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Organization, 4-H Club Work

THEME: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER HOME AND WORLD COMMUNITY

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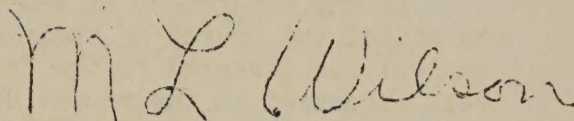
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## FOREWORD

The greatest need of mankind today is faith -- faith in the future, faith in our fellow men, faith that God has a destiny and a purpose for the human race. Boys and girls in our country certainly have reason to feel that such faith is rewarded. Observance of 4-H Club Sunday with its theme, "Working together for a better home and world community," is an expression of faith in and gratitude to the Giver of all that is good. It also serves as a practical example to people in other lands as to where our boys and girls seek and get the moral and spiritual guidance with which to support their faith in our Nation and its institutions.



M. L. Wilson  
Director of Extension Work

## DISCUSSION OF THE THEME

Since its inception a decade ago, the observance of 4-H Club Sunday has become an increasingly significant part of the 4-H Club program in a large number of States. This year, the theme, "Working together for a better home and world community," was given its first impetus during the observance of National 4-H Club Week and will continue to be the theme for all 4-H events during 1947 in accordance with the action taken by the State Club Leaders. However, the spiritual implications of this theme will receive special emphasis in all programs planned in relation to the observance of 4-H Club Sunday. Many phases of the 4-H Club program may be used to show how the practical work in farming, homemaking, and community improvement makes for the spiritual development of the individual.

Relative to work being done for the improvement of the home community, a long list of activities might be cited. Such activities might well include general beautification of the homes of a community; sponsorship of the hot lunch at school; upkeep of church and school grounds; planting of shade and fruit trees; distribution of milk at school; starting of a community library; damming of streams to create community fishponds and recreation grounds; cooperation with local fire departments; repair of fences, buildings, and roadways; training of guide dogs for the blind; testing of local water supplies; and removal of safety and health hazards as well as other similar social and civic improvements.

The desire to study and understand people and conditions beyond the home community has led to many 4-H Club activities that make a good beginning for discussion of ways of working together for a better world community. Such activities during the past year have included sending gifts of clothing, food, and money to those in distress in lands across the seas; corresponding with young people in many of these countries; financing the education of a few young people in this country; as well as giving aid and comfort in other Christian sharing ways. All such activities are leading to a better understanding and friendlier relationships with the peoples of distant lands.

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Because of such worth-while activities, many church organizations are increasingly cooperating with leaders of the 4-H Clubs to the end that more young people may be reached and guided to fuller lives in keeping with their own best selves. Club leaders also deem it important that all young people be encouraged to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church and the school.

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives--so well expressed in the recent Children's Charter, "For every child, spiritual and moral training to help him stand firm under the pressures of life." For it is this individual spiritual development that is the crucial factor in carrying a people through triumphantly in any crisis which unites them in working earnestly together for a better home and world community.

THOUGHTS IN RELATION TO THE THEME FOR USE  
IN OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

Three things must always be  
To keep a nation strong and free;  
One is a hearth, bright and dear.  
With busy, happy, loved ones near;  
One is a ready heart and hand  
To love and serve and keep the land;  
One is a worn and beaten way  
To where the people go to pray.  
So long as these are kept alive  
Nation and people will survive.  
God keep them always, everywhere  
The HEARTH, the FLAG, the PLACE OF PRAYER.

"The atomic bomb destroyed selfish nationalism and the last defense of isolationism more completely than it razed an enemy city. It ended one age and began another: the new and unpredictable age of the soul. There must be fulfilled in that age, if man is to survive, the prophecy of the Acts of the Apostles: 'God That made the world and all things therein \*\*\* hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.' To this unity of world peoples our American religious freedom has a vital contribution to make."

President Harry S. Truman

"The development of atomic energy holds great, but as yet unexploited, promise for the well-being of civilization. Whether this promise will be realized depends on whether the danger of swift and unprecedented destruction can be removed from the earth.



Whether it is removed depends on whether we and other nations move firmly, quickly, and with frank transparency of purpose toward the goal of uniting all men of good will against the appalling threat to man's very existence. The focus of the problem does not lie in the atom; it resides in the hearts of men."

Henry L. Stimson

"There are no great or small. We fancy others greater than ourselves because they light the divine spark given them and we do not."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The need for Christian kindness, for the sharing of one's talents, for the extending of a helping hand, will ever be present. Despite the narrowing size of the world, due to more rapid means of travel and communication, despite the greater organizational strength in communities and in nations, the focal point of human society still lies in the sanctuary of the human soul. True unity of all peoples, whether in a single institution or in the vast expanse of the world, is effected only through the cohesion of those souls to the central unifying force--Christ."

Rev. Robert E. Dillon

"The United States has the greatest stake in a world state and a world community. Since the great aim is a world community, the great task is education. A world community can exist only with world communication, which means something more than extensive short-wave facilities scattered about the globe. It means common understanding, a common tradition, common ideas, and common ideals."

Robert M. Hutchins

"Recently, in a rehabilitation hospital, I told a group of airmen who had been badly wounded and whose future looked dark to them: If you have not had an experience with God in your life, my advice is to get busy and get yourself one. That is the sure way of winning over that inner struggle that tends toward defeat. It is the only way to meet life or death. It's the only way you can hook up to the two-way system of that 'Big Radio' and get an answer. That's why I believe in prayer."

Captain Eddie Rickenbacker

"The new world does not belong to youth today, unless youth today can find something we have not had. The problems of our world are too profound to be solved with anything less than all the wisdom that older people can bring to it, plus all the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice that youth can muster."

S. M. Shoemaker



"You may test out the character and quality of your leadership now. If you were given a seat at the final peace table following this war, what would you stand for? How would you advise treating the Germans, the Japanese, and the Italians in the reconstruction period? Express yourself at home, at your club, among your companions, and see how many agree with you.

"What has made America the country that people of most other nations trust and respect? Is it because of our helpfulness with food, clothing, and medicine in time of disaster? Is it because we have translated Chinese indemnities into Chinese scholarship? Is it because we have helped build up the Philippines and set a date for their freedom? Is it our might or our humanity that has most endeared us to the peoples of the world? Think on these things when you prepare yourself to sit at the peace table, and have faith too in your own thinking."

C. B. Smith

"Not for this land alone,  
Be God's mercies shown  
From shore to shore;  
But may the Nations see  
That men shall brothers be  
And form one family,  
The wide world o'er."

(Author unknown)

"In this day of terrible weapons, like the atomic bomb, it would be suicidal for the world to engage in a physical struggle for power. All nations that could at this time engage in major warfare subscribe to that principle. But a struggle, nevertheless, is on. It is a struggle in which I hope every 4-H Club member will find himself or herself prepared.

"We would be blind indeed if we were to close our eyes to the psychological struggle between the ideologies of the world. The question today is whether we can rededicate ourselves to the true principles which are so much a part of our culture -- the one that has brought the world the greatest scientific and material progress ever known. The religious basis of our culture -- of our own way of life -- is Christianity. Christianity in our culture is not merely a matter of denominational faith. It is not a question of whether we are Catholic, Protestant, or Hebrew. The essential principles of the Christian culture are love, tolerance, truth, justice, freedom, loyalty. Those who have faith in these principles are guided by the code of Jehovah, given to Moses, the leader of ancient Jews. They are guided also by the Sermon on the Mount -- and by adherence in practice to the principle of "doing unto others as you would have others do unto you." The extent to which Christian civilization as we know it will survive in the world of tomorrow, be it win or lose, will depend on how deeply all of us in the Western World believe and live up to these principles. We cannot profess belief in Christian virtues



on Sunday, and disregard human values on Monday. The application of Christian principles has to recognize a world living peacefully together with all its races and peoples. Christianity cannot close its eyes to racial intolerance. That kind of Christianity only makes us vulnerable to the ever-busy subversive elements whose purpose is not evolution and progress within our culture, but who are bent on revolution and the end of free democratic institutions. The time has come when we must live by our faith, or the fanatic faith of other ideologies may be the victor."

M. L. Wilson

"World citizenship sounds big, but like Henry Ford's machine, it is made up of the simple daily acts thoughtfully performed. It would be a most melancholy thought to think that human beings who can break the atom and invent incredible machines of war cannot show an equal genius in producing a social order that will rebuild a devastated world in a more glorious pattern."

Wakelin McNeel

#### PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

##### WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about community and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Working together for a better home and world community."

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual value and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.



Helps 4-H members to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH SERVICES  
BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by the county extension agent and home demonstration agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make mutual arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible.

If May 25 proves inconvenient, select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with other events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.



Have a 4-H Club committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Other forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

#### POWER OF PRAYER

"Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today.

It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits.

It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive."

#### 4-H CLUB PRAYER

"Thou Eternal Spirit of Life, the Heavens declare Thy glory and the fields and woods reveal Thy providing care. Thou art our Father.

"We thank Thee for all Thy provisions for human happiness, for the love of home and friends and for all those influences which turn work into pleasure.



"We pray that Thy spirit may govern us in all our activities and all our pleasures and social contacts, and in such manner that we may spend our days in harmony with Thy holy will and our eternal well-being.

"We pray for an ever-increasing understanding of men, women, boys, and girls throughout our war-torn world. May we do our full part unceasingly to bring about a just and lasting peace.

"We pray Thy favor on our associates, on our club leaders, and on our county extension agents, and may they who have given so freely and unselfishly of their time, feel that they have been doing Thy service. As we have freely received, may we be prepared to pass on that which we have gained; to serve our communities as we have been served. May we see Jesus in our everyday contacts and may He become the pattern of our lives. Amen."

J. R. Hargreaves

#### THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the  
Observance of 4-H Club Sunday

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

The official documents of American history . . . affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation.

-- United States Supreme Court  
decision.

"The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed."

-- Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



"A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid down grade."

-- Theodore Roosevelt.

"The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country."

-- William Howard Taft.

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

-- Woodrow Wilson.

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

-- Calvin Coolidge.

"Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization."

-- Herbert Hoover.

#### THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

##### 4-H CLUB CREED

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.



I believe in my country, my State, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

#### 4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,  
My heart to greater loyalty,  
My hands to larger service, and  
My health to better living,  
For my club, my community, and my country.

#### 4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

## THE CHILDREN'S SONG

Note: This stirring poem by Rudyard Kipling which concludes his story, "Puck of Pook's Hill," seems particularly appropriate in relation to the observance of 4-H Club Sunday. The thought expressed in the last stanza will be of special interest to all those engaged in 4-H Club work.

Land of our Birth, we pledge to Thee  
Our love and toil in the years to be;  
When we are grown and take our place,  
As men and women with our race.

Father in Heaven who lovest all,  
Oh help Thy children when they call;  
That they may build from age to age,  
An undefiled heritage.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,  
With steadfastness and careful truth;  
That, in our time, Thy Grace may give  
The Truth whereby the Nations live.

Teach us to rule ourselves alway,  
Controlled and cleanly night and day;  
That we may bring, if need arise,  
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

Teach us to look in all our ends,  
On Thee for judge, and not our friends;  
That we, with Thee, may walk uncowed  
By fear or favour of the crowd.

Teach us the Strength that cannot seek,  
By deed or thought, to hurt the weak;  
That, under Thee, we may possess  
Man's strength to comfort man's distress.



Teach us Delight in simple things,  
And Mirth that has no bitter springs;  
Forgiveness free of evil done,  
And Love to all men 'neath the sun!

Land of our Birth, our faith, our pride,  
For whose dear sake our fathers died;  
O Motherland, we pledge to thee,  
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be!

-- Rudyard Kipling.